

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

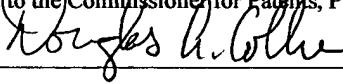
In re patent application:)
)
Braun et al.) Before the Examiner
)
Serial No. New Application) Unknown
)
Filed Herewith)
)
ORTHOPEDIC DISTRACTION)Atty Docket No. 4002-3068/PC798.00
IMPLANTS AND TECHNIQUES)
)
) January 30, 2004

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Commissioner of Patents
P. O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

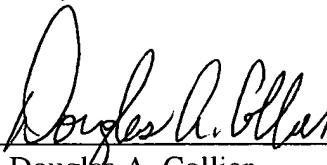
Pursuant to the duty of disclosure embodied in 37 C.F.R. §1.56 and 1.98,
Applicant wishes to bring to the attention of the Examiner the items of information listed
on the enclosed Information Disclosure Statement by Applicant. This information has
not been previously submitted in this application, and has not been heretofore cited by the
examiner. Copies of the non-U.S. Patent references are enclosed herewith.

Express Mail Label No. EV394105779 Date of Deposit January 30, 2004
I hereby certify that this paper or fee is being deposited with the United States Postal Service
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The filing of this Information Disclosure Statement shall not be construed as an admission that the information cited is, or is considered to be, prior art or material to the patentability as defined in 37 C.F.R. §1.56.

This Statement is being submitted with the filing of the application and before the mailing of a first Office Action on the merits. Therefore, it is believed that no fee is required for consideration of the submitted items. Should any fee be required, please charge such fee to Deposit Account No. 23-3030, but not to include any payment of issue fees.

Respectfully submitted,

By: 
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004002-003068.DAC.262903

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Substitute for form 1449A/PTO				<i>Complete if Known</i>	
INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT				Application Number	New Application
				Filing Date	Herewith
				First Named Inventor	Braun
				Group Art Unit	
				Examiner Name	
Sheet	2	of	3	Attorney Docket Number	
4002-3068/PC798.00					

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

Examiner Signature		Date Considered	
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EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.

¹ Applicant's unique citation designation number (optional). ² See Kinds Codes of USPTO Patent Documents at www.uspto.gov or MPEP 901.04. ³ Enter Office that issued the document, by the two-letter code (WIPO Standard ST.3). ⁴ For Japanese patent documents, the indication of the year of the reign of the emperor must precede the serial number of the patent document. ⁵ Kind of document by the appropriate symbols as indicated on the document under WIPO Standard ST.16 if possible. ⁶ Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language Translation is attached.

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**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE
STATEMENT BY APPLICANT**

(use as many sheets as necessary)

Sheet

1

of

3

<i>Complete if Known</i>	
Application Number	New Application
Filing Date	Herewith
First Named Inventor	Braun
Group Art Unit	
Examiner Name	

Attorney Docket Number 4002-3068/PC798.00

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

Examiner Initials*	Cite No. ¹	Document Number	Publication Date MM-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Application of Cited Document	Pages, Columns, Lines where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear
		Number-Kind Code ² (If known)			
1	US-3,565,066		02/1971	Roaf	
2	US-3,865,105		02/1975	Lode	
3	US-3,977,397		08/1976	Kalnberz et al.	
4	US-4,078,559		03/1978	Nissinen	
5	US-4,369,770		01/1983	Bacal et al.	
6	US-4,386,603		06/1983	Mayfield	
7	US-5,147,360		09/1992	Dubousset	
8	US-5,282,863		02/1994	Burton	
9	US-5,540,688		07/1996	Navas	
10	US-5,609,634		03/1997	Voydeville	
11	US-5,672,175		09/1997	Martin	
12	US-5,683,390		11/1997	Metz-Stavenhagen et al.	
13	US-5,702,395		12/1997	Hopf	
14	US-5,961,516		10/1999	Graf	
15	US-6,015,409		01/2000	Jackson	
16	US-6,019,760		02/2000	Metz-Stavenhagen et al.	
17	US-6,132,431		10/2000	Nilsson et al.	
18	US-6,224,599		05/2001	Jackson	

Examiner Initials*	Cite No. ¹	Foreign Patent Document	Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Application of Cited Document	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear	T ⁶
		Country Code ³ -Number ⁴ -Kind Code ⁵ (If known)				
19	WO 96/01598		01-25-1996			
20	EP 0 667 127 A1		08-16-1995			
21	EP 0 669 109 B1		08-30-1995		pp.6, 810	

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		New Application			
		Filing Date			
		Herewith			
		First Named Inventor			
		Braun			
		Group Art Unit			
		Examiner Name			
Sheet	3	of	3	Attorney Docket Number	4002-3068/PC798.00
(use as many sheets as necessary)					

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004002-003068.DAC.262890